REMARKS

In the Office action, the Examiner identified two patentably distinct inventions as being claimed in the present application. The inventions were identified as:

Group I, claims 1-26, and

Group II, claims 27-31.

The Examiner has required Applicants to elect one of the above-identified groups for prosecution in this case. Accordingly, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-26 for prosecution on the merits.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 16-0820, order no. 32811.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

Suzanne B. Gagnon, Reg. No. P48924

526 Superior Avenue East Suite 1200 Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1484 (216) 579-1700

August 29, 2001